

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☒

Property Name: Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church Inventory Number: F-7-34
Address: 4010 Ijamsville Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Ijamsville Zip Code: 21754 County: Frederick
USGS Quadrangle(s): Urbana
Property Owner: Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church Tax Account ID Number: 1107194781
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 102 Tax Map Number: 96
Project: MD 80 at Ijamsville Road Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration
Agency Prepared By: Maryland State Highway Administration
Preparer's Name: Stephanie Foell Date Prepared: 11/29/2005
Documentation is presented in: _____
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
Visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description

The Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church is a modest, single-story, frame, religious building located on the northwest corner of the intersection of MD 80 and Ijamsville Road, approximately 75 yards north of Fingerboard Road in the vicinity of Ijamsville in Frederick County, Maryland. The building has an essentially rectangular footprint with several small projecting portions, including a front-facing gable foyer and a rear cross gable that were added after the initial construction. The church is clad in vinyl siding and sits atop a raised foundation of concrete over brick. A rear corner of the church is supported on a single pier.

The church has a front-facing gable configuration, which is oriented to the east. Entrance is gained through a smaller gable projection that functions as an enclosed entrance foyer that sits atop a concrete block foundation. The smaller gable projection is centrally placed within the larger gable of the main building. The entrance gable is symmetrical, with a centrally located pair of wood doors flanked by two wall sconces. The entrance is reached by a small flight of concrete stairs with metal handrails. The roof has slightly overhanging eaves and small gable returns. A cross is located on the ridgeline of the foyer roof.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments: DOES NOT RETAIN SUFFICIENT INTEGRITY TO REFLECT HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

Jim Amundson
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

3/9/06
Date

Blunt
Reviewer, National Register Program

3/9/06
Date

2006 00067

The main portion of the building is devoid of ornamentation or openings on the façade. A single square vent in the apex of the gable is the only feature that pierces the main building's façade.

The north (side) elevation contains five irregularly spaced windows with six-over-six, double-hung sash configurations.

The west (rear) elevation contains an off-center metal door with a small, square, glass pane. A small shed-roof covering extends from the plane of the building, providing a modicum of shelter. A wood-plank walkway with wood railings leads to the door. A small rectangular vent punctuates the apex of the gable. There is no eave overhang on this elevation.

The south (side) elevation contains a projecting cross gable. Two, small, evenly spaced, one-over-one, double-hung windows are located on the cross gable. The main portion of the building contains six-over-six, double-hung-sash windows. Double cellar doors are located next to the building. A tall, exterior, concrete-block chimney that has been partially sided extends beyond the roofline of the main portion of the church.

The roof of the church is clad in corrugated metal.

A cemetery surrounds the church on the side and rear elevations. Grave stones date from the nineteenth century, and display a variety of designs. Simple marble markers and carved granite obelisks are the dominant types. A child's marker which features a sculpted set of baby shoes is one of the more ornate examples. A grove of trees surrounds the cemetery. An asphalt parking lot is located in front of the façade.

A small outbuilding that functions as a church hall is on the property to the northeast of the church. It is a front-gable building with a rectangular footprint and a symmetrical façade. The centrally placed entrance is surrounded by contrasting masonry and the flanking one-over-one windows are topped with brick lintels. The apex of the gable contains a rectangular metal vent. The roof is covered in corrugated metal and is punctuated by a chimney. A small, metal, gambrel-roof shed was placed perpendicularly to the hall.

The interior of the church was not accessible as part of this survey.

History

The Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church

The trustees of the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church initially purchased a lot that was three-quarters of an acre from William Gant in early 1869. This lot was for the construction of a school "for the use, benefit, and education of the colored people of Frederick County." Eight months later in October of the same year, the trustees purchased an adjoining lot from Gant for five dollars for the construction of a church. The trustees likely selected the site, which is located between Ijamsville, the site of a substantial slate quarry that was actively being mined in the mid-nineteenth century, and the historically African-American community of Centerville on Fingerboard Road, to provide equal access for residents of both villages.

The school, which was also called Ebenezer, was constructed, but has since been demolished. However, the corollary construction of the two buildings reveals the important link between religion and education in free black communities in the late nineteenth century in Frederick County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

The church was constructed in 1883 according to a date stone in the foundation. The present church building may possibly be a replacement for an earlier building that may have been constructed shortly after the trustees purchased the lots in 1869, or the trustees may have waited to construct the church until they could raise adequate funds. In some African-American communities, a single building served as both the school and the church until funding for separate facilities was available.

The church is currently called the Ebenezer United Methodist Church.

African-American Churches in Maryland

After the Civil War and emancipation, free slave communities throughout Maryland constructed modest frame houses of worship. Most have rectangular footprints and front-gable configurations. They feature only modest architectural ornament, such as simple stained-glass windows, if any. Commonly, vernacular interpretations of late-nineteenth century sacred architectural styles are seen on these churches. On some examples, pointed-arch openings refer to the Gothic Revival style of architecture, which had lost its popularity in most urban areas by 1860, but continued to influence vernacular interpretations of the style.

Examples of late nineteenth-century, vernacular, African-American houses of worship remain throughout the state, primarily in rural areas. Many retain high degrees of integrity because the original form and materials are extant. In general, Methodists tended to congregate in Maryland and Delaware; most notably, Maryland's Eastern Shore contains numerous examples of this type of building with high degrees of integrity.

Originally, Methodists gathered in the open air, or in churches of other denominations, or even in private homes. When congregations constructed their own buildings, they generally referred to them as chapels, and the architecture was generally modest. Unpretentious frame, gable-end buildings with minimal ornament were the norm, and most were painted white. Following suit after Emancipation, African-American congregants built similar examples, but with even less ornamentation, and most often without any type of bell tower.

Significance

A Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form for the Ebenezer Church was completed in 1993. The form states that the church is "minimally significant," but no evaluation of the property according to National Register of Historic Places criteria is included in the form, although Criterion A is checked in Section 8 of the form. No assessment of integrity is included in the original form.

After extensive documentation and analysis, the Ebenezer Church is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The building is not related to any significant events. While it is tangentially linked to the trend of free black worship and education in the late nineteenth century, the schoolhouse is no longer extant. Therefore, the original intent of the site is no longer conveyed. Research has not indicated that the property is associated with any important people; therefore, it is not eligible under Criterion B. The church is also not eligible under Criterion C. It is an altered example of a building type commonly found in rural areas throughout Maryland. The property was not assessed for significance under Criterion D.

The Ebenezer Church does not retain a high degree of integrity. The integrity of design of the original rectangular building has been altered by the addition of the enclosed foyer and the rear cross gable. The application of vinyl siding and the new windows on select portions of the building also compromise its integrity of materials and craftsmanship. These changes—particularly the introduction of modern siding material—compromises the integrity of feeling.

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Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

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Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Finally, because the school is no longer extant, the integrity of association of the site is greatly diminished, and the property no longer conveys the trustees' original vision of a center of education and worship.

Works Consulted:

Clarke, Nina. History of the Nineteenth Century Black Churches in Maryland and Washington, D.C. New York: Vantage Press, 1983.

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland Department. Frederick County Vertical Files.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form. Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, F-7-34. Completed by Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor, October 1993.

Williams, Peter W. Houses of God; Region, Religion, and Architecture in the United States. Urbana and Chicago, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1997.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

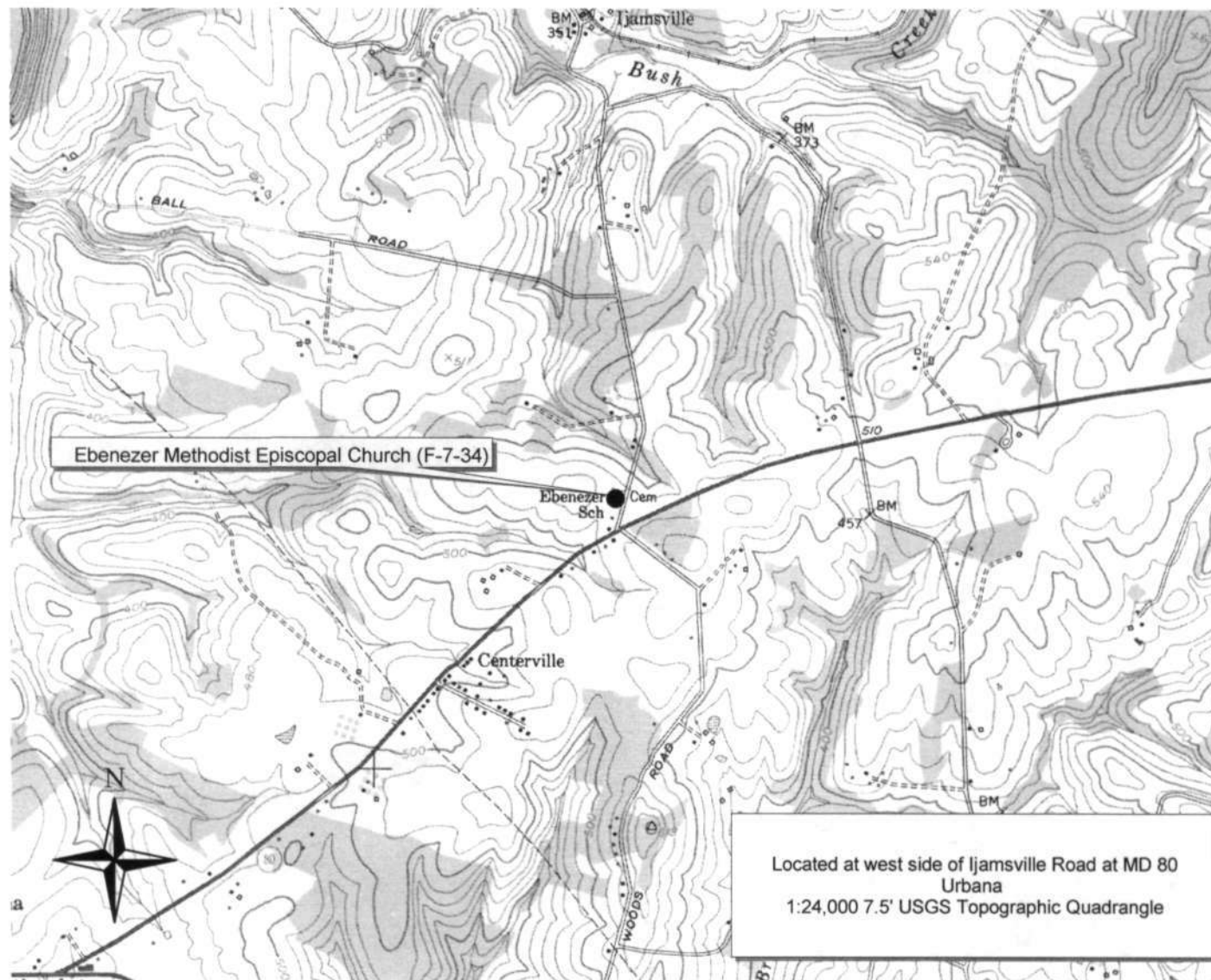
Reviewer, National Register Program

Date



Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church (F-7-34)

Ijamsville, MD



0.6 0 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 Miles



F-7-34

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church

Frederick County, MD

B. Kermes

10/2004

MD SHPO

View of the facade, facing west

1 of 6



F-7-34

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church

Frederick County, MD

B. Kermes

10/2004

MD SHPO

View of the south elevation

2 of 6



F-7-34

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church
Frederick County, MD

B Kermes

10/2004

MD SHPO

West (rear) elevation

3 of 6



F-7-34

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church

Frederick County, MD

B. Kermes

10/2004

MD SHPO

View of north elevation

4 of 6



F-7-34

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church

Frederick County MD

B. Kermes

10/2004

MD SHPO

View of church hall (south elevation); building
is located northeast of church

5 of 6



F-7-34

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church
Frederick County, MD

B. Kermes

10/2004

MD SHPO

View to the north; Cemetery surrounding
church

6 of 6

F-7-34

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church
Ijamsville vicinity
Private

1883

The Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1883, according to a dated stone in the foundation, perhaps replacing an earlier log structure on the site. The church trustees purchased the lot in 1869, a few months after buying an adjoining site for a school, which has been demolished. The church is a one-story frame building with modern vinyl siding and a foyer and western extension added in the mid-20th century. The original building had three bays on the north and south elevations with 6/6 windows. The roof, now covered with corrugated metal, was probably originally wood shingles. Surrounding the church on the north, west and south is a cemetery with a variety of grave stones, one of which, a 1960's marker for a child, is notable for the sculpted baby shoes on its top edge. Ebenezer M. E. Church is minimally significant for its architecture, having been considerably altered in the early 20th century; however, it represents the close connection between religion and education in late 19th and early 20th century black communities.

F-7-34

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church
Ijamsville
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Religion
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use:
Religion/religious structure/church

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common

2. Locationstreet & number Ijamsville Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Ijamsville ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Ebenezer United Methodist Church

street & number c/o John Foreman, Sr. telephone no.:

city, town Ijamsville state and zip code MD 21754

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber TG10

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 444

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-7-34

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-story frame church with vinyl siding, originally built in 1883 according to a datestone in the stone foundation, and altered several times through the early 20th century by the addition of a foyer at the main entrance and an L-shaped extension of the west gable end. The church is located on the west side of Ijamsville Road about 75 yards north of Fingerboard Road, near Ijamsville, Frederick County, Maryland. The main entrance faces east and a one-story non-contributing concrete block education and activity building is located a few feet northeast of the church. A cemetery extends in a semi-circles from the north side of the buildings around the west end of the church. The church is currently named Ebenezer United Methodist Church.

The church is a rectangular structure with a corrugated metal gable roof and three bays on the original north and south elevations. The vinyl siding probably conceals or replaced german siding, the most common exterior siding material for frame structures in the late 19th century. The roof was probably originally wood shingles. The foyer, which has a concrete block foundation, obscures the original entrance, but it was probably a single opening with double doors. The foyer and the side elevations have 6/6 windows with applied colored film resembling stained glass. The original three bays were extended by two additional bays on the north elevation when the western addition was built. This section has a projecting south leg with modern windows. An exterior concrete block chimney is located on the south elevation. The interior of the church was inaccessible for this survey.

The cemetery near the church is notable for the variety of grave markers, from simple military style marble markers to carved marble and granite monuments in small obelisk forms. One 1960's marker near the north side of the church, for a child's grave, has a pair of carved baby shoes on the top edge of the stone.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-7-34

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1883

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church is minimally significant for its architecture, which, although altered with modern siding and additions, still reveals its simple rectangular form, linking it to the context of rural churches of the late 19th century throughout Frederick County. The Ebenezer trustees purchased the church lot from William Gant for \$5 in October 1869, eight months after the same group of trustees had acquired an adjoining 3/4-acre lot from Gant for the construction of a school "for the use, benefit, and education of the colored people of Frederick County". The strong cultural link between education and religion in late 19th century black communities is thus revealed, although the schoolhouse has been demolished for many years. Both church and school were called Ebenezer. It is not clear whether the present building, dated 1883, is a replacement of an earlier church, perhaps a log structure, or whether the construction of the church was delayed until funds could be raised. In some black communities, the school and church were held in the same building for several years before separate facilities could be built. The location of the church and school lots is about half way between the black community of Centerville on Fingerboard Road and Ijamsville on Bush Creek and was clearly located to facilitate access from both villages.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-7-34

Clarke, Nina H. History of the 19th Century Black Churches in Maryland and Washington, D.C. New York: Vantage Press, 1983, 241.

Land Records of Frederick County

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.5 acres

Quadrangle name Urbana, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Concurrent with Tax Map 96, Parcel 102

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date October 1993

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

city or town Frederick state MD 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2028
514-7600

Ebenezer M. E. Church c/o Mary Lyles Jamsville 21754

F-7-34

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

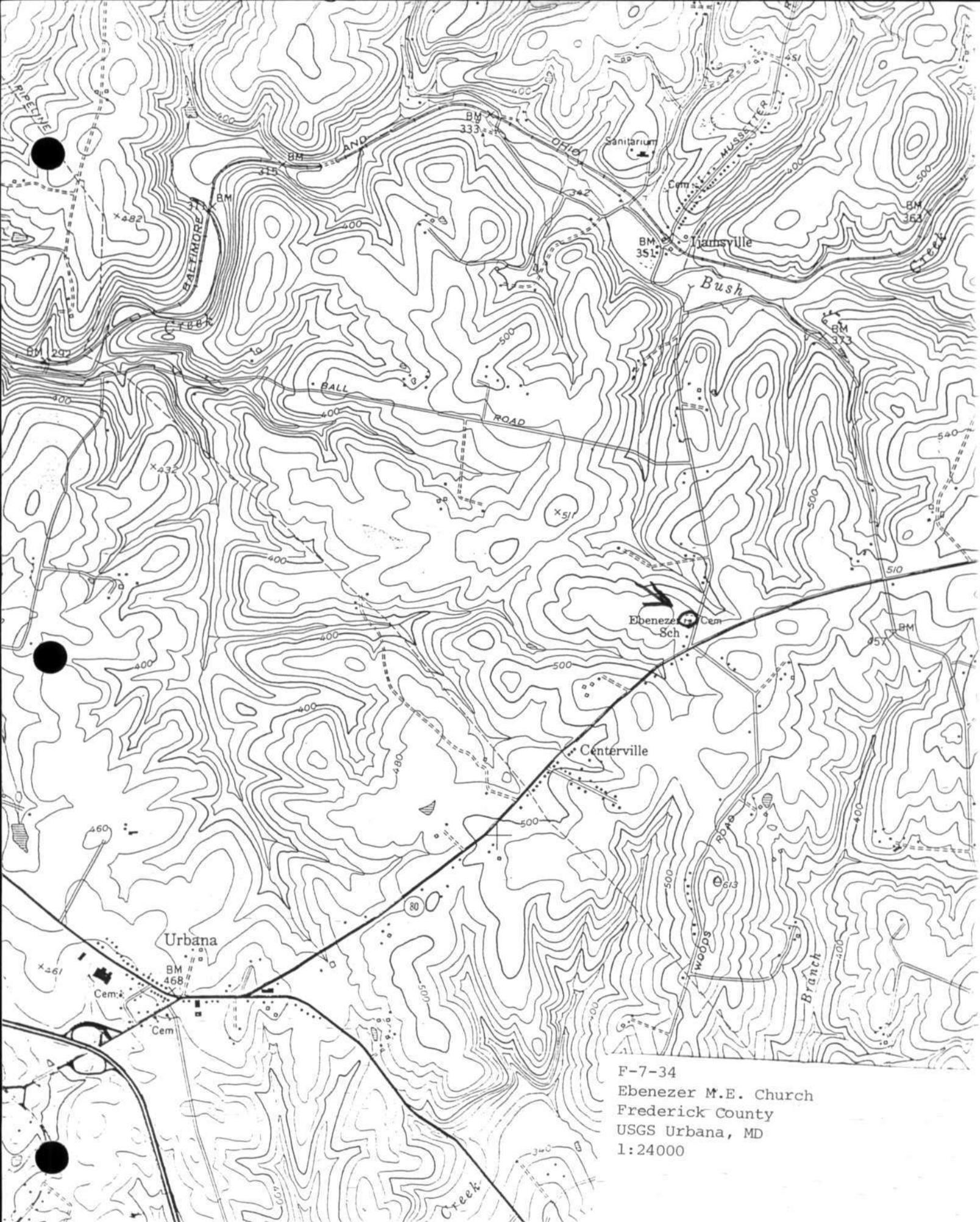
[illegible]

Cheney M. E. Church

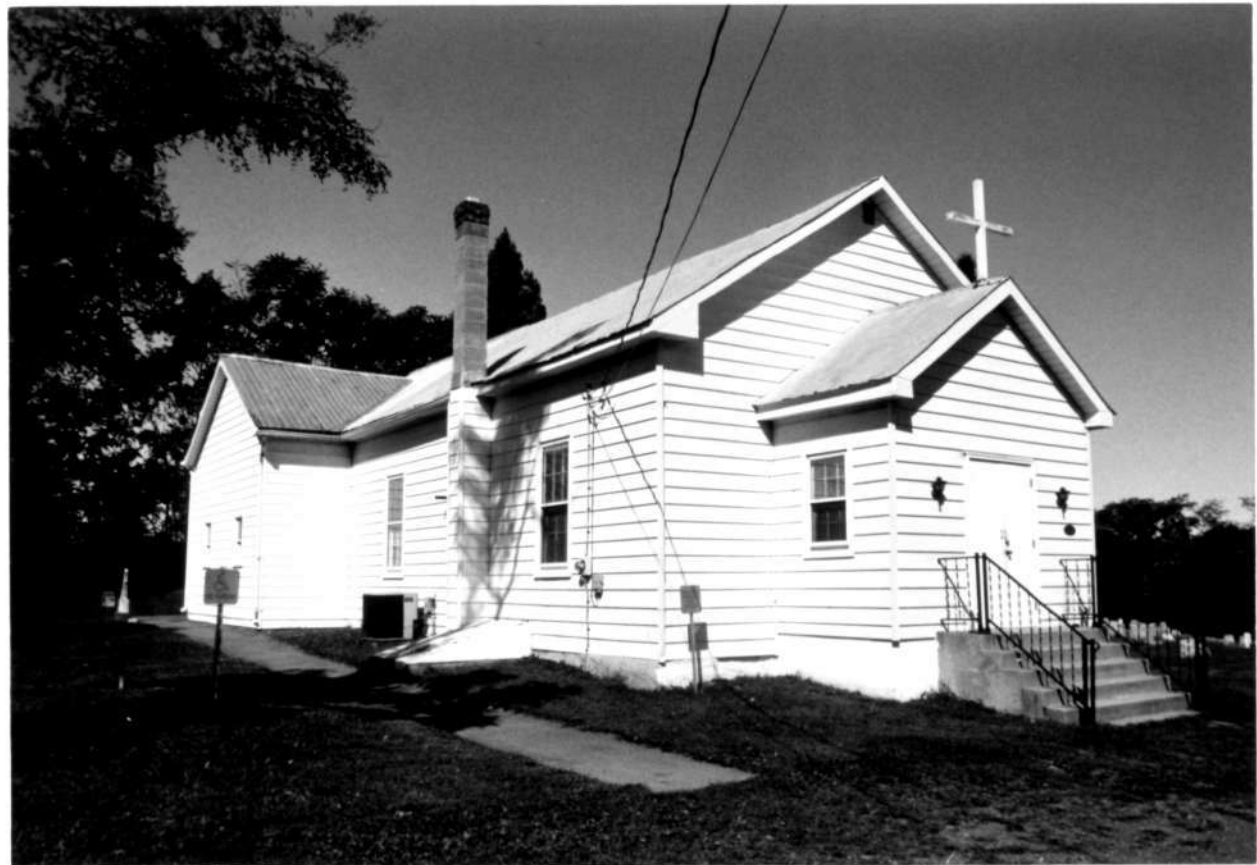
F-7-34

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

[illegible]



F-7-34
Ebenezer M.E. Church
Frederick County
USGS Urbana, MD
1:24000



F-7-34

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

October 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Southeast corner view

1/2



F-7-34

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

October 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

North elevation

2/2